

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO
Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN
Swyddfa'r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau NP13 3BN
Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

Dear Member,

You are summoned to attend a hybrid meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina to commence following the Planning & Highways Committee meeting **on Tuesday 11th February 2025**.

If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting remotely, please contact the Town Clerk at the above e-mail or phone by 3pm on 11th February 2025 for details of how to access the meeting.

Yours sincerely



Town Clerk

A meeting to which members of the public are entitled to attend.

AGENDA

Declaration of Interest

Members are invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members are reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept.

2. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters itemised on the agenda (limited to 10 minutes total).

3. Correspondence:

Members are invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) One Voice Wales (for information & consideration – copy attached):

One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting – 11th March 2025 (online).

- b) Mrs N Horner, Assistant Officer (for information – copy attached):

Letter of resignation from post of Assistant Officer.

4. Business Current Bank Accounts:

Members are invited to consider the attached report in respect of business current bank accounts (*copy attached*).

5. Charter of Common Agreement between Town Councils & Blaenau Gwent CBC:

Members are invited to consider the updated Charter of Common Agreement and, if agreeable, resolve to accept.

6. S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

As previously resolved, Members are invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the month of February 2025.

7. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members are invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members are also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

- a) None received to date

8. Salem Chapel:

Members are invited to consider the attached inspection report:

- January 2025 (*copy attached*).

9. Confidential Information:

The following item(s) may contain information that is of a confidential or personal nature and is therefore exclusive to Members of the Town Council only. (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960).

Tracy

From: Tracy Gilmartin <tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales>
Sent: 29 January 2025 15:17
To: Tracy Gilmartin
Subject: One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting ONLINE 11-03-2025

Dear Chair/Clerk,

One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting - Online on Tuesday 11 March 2025 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

This year our Annual General Meeting will be held on a remote basis and all **Member councils** are invited to nominate one councillor (as well as a substitute) to attend to engage in debating and deciding upon a range of important matters which for the first time in over fifteen years will include consideration of proposed changes to the constitution of the organisation. The constitution was originally approved in 2008 and over time it is clear that the governing document would benefit from important changes that would enhance the current overarching governance structure. It is essential that we have a high attendance at the meeting as the current constitution states that:

In the event of a decision having been taken by the Annual General Meeting to change the legal status of the organisation it shall only be undertaken by a majority decision of a meeting attended by a minimum of 20% of the membership.

It therefore requires a minimum of around 140 councils represented at the AGM for the constitution to be amended by a majority vote. We are of course hopeful that we will have many more councils represented at the AGM.

In addition to the proposal to amend the constitution, the remaining business will be as follows:

1. To elect the Chair and Vice-Chair of One Voice Wales.
2. To receive the Chair's report for 2023/24.
3. To receive the Chief Executive's report for 2023/24.
4. To receive the audited accounts for 2023/24.
5. To confirm the appointment of Auditors.
6. Consider motions received for consideration.

Voting on all matters will be managed through the online poll system available on the Zoom platform and detailed instructions as to how this can be used by councillors in attendance will be provided direct to your council's nominated representative.

To keep things simple, we are asking every member council to notify us of the name of the councillor who will be representing your council as well as a substitute member, their email addresses and telephone numbers. No more than that and this will need to be communicated by email to Tracy Gilmartin tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales by, if possible, no later than **28 February 2025**. This will give us time to email the necessary formal papers to those representatives well in advance of the AGM. If your council does not have a scheduled meeting before the deadline, it is suggested that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair may wish to consider deciding on representation without recourse to a meeting of the Council.

I trust that you will appreciate the importance of having a high level of attendance at the AGM and we look forward to welcoming your representative. **Please note that there is no fee for attendance at the AGM.**

Item no. 3b

Nicola Horner
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

04/02/2025

Tracy Hughes
Town Clerk
Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council
Blaina Community Institute
Blaina
Gwent
NP13 3BN

Subject: Resignation Notice

Dear Tracy,

I am writing to formally resign from my position as Assistant Officer at Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council, my new employment start date is Monday 17th March 2025, and I give you 4 weeks' notice.

This decision was not easy, but after careful consideration, I believe it is the right step for me. I truly appreciate the opportunities for growth and learning I have experienced during my time at Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council I am grateful for the support of my colleagues and the valuable experiences I have gained.

To ensure a smooth transition, I will ensure that all my responsibilities are to date before my departure.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to be part of Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council I look forward to staying in touch and wish the company continued success.

Sincerely,

N. Horner

Nicola Horner

NANTYGLO & BLAINA

- 4 FEB 2025

TOWN COUNCIL

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO a BLAENAU

Current Account Interest Rates – February 2025

Introduction:

Members will be aware that the Town Council has, in addition to two current accounts with Lloyds Bank and an instant access Savings Account with Swansea Building society.

Purpose:

To investigate if there are any business current accounts that pay interest on credit balances.

Report:

Investigations have revealed that there are NO business current accounts available that pay interest on credit balances. A general internet search states that 'One of the most important features of a current account (business accounts) is the fact that it bears no interest at all' [<https://www.nerdwallet.com>]

Bank/Building Society	Account (all business)	Interest Paid?	Comments
Lloyds Bank	Current Accounts	No	Confirmed via phone call (3/2/25) that NO business current accounts pay interest
Virgin	M Current Account	No	as per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)
Alicia Bank	Business Reward account	No	as per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)
Bank of Scotland	Business Current Account	No	As per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)
Card One Money	Business Current Account	No	As per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)
Cooperative Bank	Business Current Account	No	As per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)
Mettle (Natwest)	Business Reward Account	No	As per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)
Monzo	Business Lite & Business Pro	No	As per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)
Royal Bank of Scotland	Business Current Account	No	As per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)
Tide Bank	Tide Smart	No	As per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)
Zemplar Bank	Business Bank Account	No	As per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)
Barclays	Business Current Account	No	As per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)
Natwest	Business Current Account	No	As per Money Supermarket search (03/02/25)

Swansea Building Society	No Business Current Account	N/A	As per Swansea Building Society Website (23/01/25 & 03/02/25) – NO current accounts of any kind available – only savings accounts
Unity Trust Bank	Business Current Account	No	As per Unity Trust Bank website (23/01/25 & 03/02/25)

Recommendation:

That Members consider the above information and advise accordingly.

Tracy Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

February 2025

CHARTER OF COMMON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND
TOWN COUNCILS OF: ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH; BRYNMAWR;
NANTYGLO; AND BLAINA AND TREDEGAR

WITH

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Preface

This is the Charter for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council working together with the Town and Community Councils of Abertillery & Llanhilleth, Brynmawr, Nantyglo & Blaina, and Tredegar as Partners.

It is designed to build on existing good practice and embrace the shared principles of openness, respect for each other's opinions, honesty and common priority of putting citizens at the centre.

The Charter has been reviewed in 2024 to reflect the 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021. It is a set of guiding principles for how we will work together towards our long-term goals in a collaborative, preventative and integrated way.

Partners to the Charter

Partners as referred to in this document are defined as:-

Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council;
Brynmawr Town Council;
Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council;
Tredegar Town Council; and
any newly established TCC(s) since the inception of this Charter

with

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

LOCAL GOVERNANCE & INFORMATION

All Partners to the Charter will be clear about the expectations that they have of each other and the expectations placed upon them in order to facilitate good working relationships. We will define the way in which we interact with each other and clear about the role of councillors at all levels in the relationship and in community leadership. Timely, clear, relevant information and communication fosters good relationships and better joint working for the benefit of local people.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC)	Town & Community Councils (TCCs)
Facilitate quarterly TCC and Cabinet liaison committee meetings via Microsoft Teams, in-person or Hybrid, and ensure that electronic copies of agendas, minutes and reports are circulated to Clerks.	Contribute towards the agenda for quarterly liaison committee meetings through the Clerks Forum.
Cabinet Members and the Corporate Leadership Team will be invited to attend the quarterly liaison meetings along with any other Council officers relevant to the agenda.	Nominate three Councillor representatives from each TCC to attend the quarterly liaison committee meetings in addition to the Clerks, and inform the BGCBC in advance of each meeting.
Will provide the names and contact details for all County Borough Councillors, Wider Corporate Leadership Team and the TCC liaison officer(s).	Will provide the names and contact details for all TCC Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Councillors, Clerks, and Deputy Clerks.
BGCBC Councillors and/or officers to be invited to attend joint committee of TCCs meetings as required.	Facilitate a joint committee of TCCs including representatives of each TCC to consider local issues, and invite BGCBC councillors / officers to be invited to attend as required.
Make TCCs aware of where public copies of committee agenda papers, minutes and dates are available on the council website.	Make BGCBC aware of where public copies of TCC agendas, reports and minutes are available on the TCC websites.

CONSULTATION

All Partners recognise the importance of meaningful consultation.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Town & Community Councils
Will undertake duty to consult TCCs on statutory matters as directed in the specific legislation relating to county borough consultation, ensuring Services adopt a consistent and proactive approach to engagement and consultation with TCCs.	Will respond to statutory consultations in a timely manner through the agreed processes, addressing the key issues clearly.
Will consult with TCCs on significant place-based issues that impact on their specific geographical area.	Will respond to consultation opportunities relating to specific place-based issues that might impact upon the local area in a timely manner through the agreed processes, addressing the key issues clearly.
Report back to TCCs on the outcome of consultations, clearly highlighting any amendments that have or will be made, in addition to outlining in a transparent way the reasons for reaching that outcome or decision.	Through their TCC Clerk, ensure decisions made by BGCBC on subjects that affect their localities are reported back to TCC Members, including the reasons given for that decision.
Provide a written explanation on request if consultation is not possible or has not taken place in exceptional circumstances.	Acknowledge that in some circumstances the timescales for responding to certain consultations will be imposed on BGCBC externally so consultation periods may occasionally be very short or in rare cases unfeasible.

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

Effective partnership working brings benefits and includes responsibilities for all those involved. Local government at both tiers should work together to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of our area in ways that are sustainable for current and future generations.

This can be achieved by embedding the 5 Ways of Working set out in the Act into this Charter:

- **Collaboration** – acting collaboratively with partners to help each other promote wellbeing objectives
- **Long-Term** – the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs
- **Involvement** – the importance of involving each other in achieving wellbeing goals, ensuring that those represented reflect the diversity of the area
- **Prevention** – understanding how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse can help public bodies meet wellbeing objectives
- **Integration** – considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact on their other objectives and the objectives of other public bodies.

Partners recognise the importance of the Gwent Wellbeing Plan and Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Partnership's (Local Delivery Group of the Gwent Public Services Board) local well-being priorities as the overarching strategic vision for the social, economic, environmental wellbeing of the area. Partners also recognise that the plans can only be implemented effectively through partnership working and being informed by grass roots experiences from within our local communities.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Town & Community Councils
Will commit to embed the 5 Ways of Working into joint working arrangements with TCCs	Will commit to embed the 5 Ways of Working into joint working arrangements with BGCBC.
Will involve TCCs engagement and involvement work in supporting the development and implementation of the Well-being Plan.	Will consider opportunities for developing local TCC wellbeing action plans where relevant and support the objectives in line with the Well-being Plan.
Will share annual progress reports of the Well-being Plan.	Where possible, will provide any information as relevant to inform the annual Well-being Plan progress report and engage with their communities regarding how local programmes could align with the delivery of local well-being priorities.

<p>Recognises that the Well-being of Future Generations Act places a number of duties on some TCCs and will work with Councils to assist them in delivering their duties under the Act.</p>	<p>Will work with BGCBC, the Public Services Board and/or the BG Local Well-being Partnership to contribute where appropriate to the delivery of their well-being objectives.</p>
<p>Will work with TCCs to protect local biodiversity and the natural environment through sustainable practices.</p>	<p>Will work with BGCBC to protect local biodiversity and the natural environment through sustainable practices.</p>

LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Fair and open elections are the bedrock of local democracy. We will ensure that elections are freely and fairly contested and encourage local people to become involved in local democracy through participation in elections and decision-making processes.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Town & Community Councils
Will keep TCCs informed of the local election planning process.	Will encourage participation in the local election process by members of the local community.
Will keep TCCs informed of any awareness raising / publicity to encourage nominations for candidacy at local elections.	Will ensure wide publicity of vacancies on TCCs to maximise community representation.
Will help to publicise forthcoming local elections on behalf of TCCs.	Will help to publicise forthcoming local elections on behalf of BGCBC.
Will facilitate public participation at all relevant meetings of the Council and its Committees to encourage community involvement in local decision-making, in line with the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021.	Will facilitate public participation at all relevant meetings of the TCCs and their Committees to encourage community involvement in local decision-making, in line with the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
Will signpost TCC Clerks towards information on the nomination process to ensure they are equipped to assist any potential candidates who come forward for local elections.	

LAND USE PLANNING

Community and town councils know and understand their local area and must be able to comment effectively on planning matters. BGCBC takes an overview of the needs of the whole local area and makes strategic decisions, taking local views into account.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Town & Community Councils
Will uphold its statutory duty to consult with TCCs on all planning applications in their communities and ensure public Planning Committee meetings are easily accessible to TCC representatives.	Will make appropriate responses to BGCBC recognising the parameters imposed by planning law and agreed planning policy.
Will work with TCCs to ensure all County Borough and TCC councillors can access appropriate adequate training on planning law and policy.	Will ensure that Councillors receive adequate training on planning law and policy.
Will ensure that TCCs receive copies of decisions relating to planning applications in their area on request.	Will progress any further clarification on planning decisions with relevant BGCBC council staff, whilst maintaining an objective approach to planning matters at all times.

ETHICS

Partners will provide an ethical service to local people, following the appropriate standards and codes of conduct in an ethical partnership working environment. We accept the legitimacy and benefits of partnership working whilst at the same time recognising and respecting each other's roles. We aim to work together as a partnership of equals rather than tiers.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Town & Community Councils
The appointed Monitoring Officer will remain a point of contact for TCCs in the consideration of matters relating to the application of the Members Code of Conduct where relevant.	Councillors shall act in an appropriate manner under the Code of Conduct and will provide all such information as required by the Ombudsman or Monitoring Officer to enable them to carry out their role effectively.
Aim to work together for the benefit of local communities whilst recognising and retaining our respective responsibilities as autonomous, democratically elected statutory bodies.	Aim to work together for the benefit of local communities whilst recognising and retaining our respective responsibilities as autonomous, democratically elected statutory bodies.

BUDGET SETTING

Partners recognise the need for clarity and transparency in financial arrangements. In developing and implementing financial arrangements, relevant national, regional and local priorities will be taken into account.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Town & Community Councils
Budget to form a standing item on all quarterly liaison committee meetings to discuss current and upcoming financial arrangements.	Contribute towards the standing Budget agenda item for quarterly liaison committee meetings through the Clerks Forum.
In setting the council's budget, will consult TCCs by holding a special Liaison Committee meeting focussing on the budget setting process, at an appropriate time in advance of the Budget.	Will participate in BGCBC's budget setting consultation process and share the community and town council annual precepts once set.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT

Partners should ensure that all elected members and officers must be well-trained and have the support they need in order to carry out their roles effectively.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Community and Town Councils
Will explore options for the provision of training, development and shared learning to benefit all Partners, including through One Voice Wales and others where relevant.	Will explore options for the provision of training, development and shared learning to benefit all Partners, including through One Voice Wales and others where relevant.
Familiarise staff on the role, responsibilities and importance of the TCCs.	
Support the delivery of a quarterly TCC Clerks forum with appropriate Terms of Reference.	Support the delivery of a quarterly TCC Clerks forum with appropriate Terms of Reference.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Charter will be reviewed by all Partners once during each Council term, or more often as appropriate if deemed necessary. The Partners will conduct this review and develop an annual progress report against the commitments within the Charter.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Community and Town Councils
Will arrange for the Charter to be reviewed by the TCC quarterly liaison committee once during each local government election cycle.	Will actively contribute to the review of the Charter.
Will facilitate the development of an annual progress report against the commitments within the Charter.	Will actively contribute to the development of an annual progress report against the commitments within the Charter.

**CHARTER OF COMMON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND
TOWN COUNCILS OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH; BRYNMAWR;
NANTYGLO AND BLAINA; AND TREDEGAR**

WITH

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council _____ Leader

**Abertillery & Llanhilleth
Community Council _____ Chair**

Brynmawr Town Council _____ Mayor

Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council _____ Mayor

Tredegar Town Council _____ Mayor

Dated:

Safety Inspections – Salem Chapel

Inspection of Salem Chapel – January 2025:

MAIN CHAPEL / WEEK	9th	16th	23rd	30th	Report of any defects And action taken
Main Hall of Chapel	/	/	/	/	Dry rot detected & floor part lifted. Investigations undertaken 31/8/16. Organ supports re-enforced Sept 2016.
Fire Alarm	/	/	/	/	Inspected 13/01/2024
Emergency Lighting	/	/	/	/	Inspected 23/01/2024
Stairways to Balcony	/	/	/	/	Stair lift not working, evidence of damp on walls. Plaster fallen from underneath of stairs due to damp.
Balcony	/	/	/	/	Damage to display possibly from insects/woodworm. Greater evidence of damp on walls.
Toilets	/	/	/	/	Removed due to dry rot
High Street Entrance	/	/	/	/	Black mould on walls & ceilings
Office	/	/	/	/	Broken window secured
General Condition	/	/	/	/	General deterioration evident
Fire Extinguishers	/	/	/	/	Inspected & replaced as necessary 06/12/22
Observations/ Other Comments	/	/	/	/	J Dyer opinion is fungal rot. Valuation survey carried out by J Dyer 3/11/21. Exhibition items delivered to Westgate Hotel, Newport & Blaen y Cwm Primary.
ANNEX BUILDING					
Ground Floor	/	/	/	/	Mould/rot on floor, appears very unsafe
Kitchen	/	/	/	/	Mould/rot on floor. Floor rotten through and unsafe. Kitchen units coming away from wall due to severe damp in floor of kitchen. R Dunham inspected.
First Aid Box	/	/	/	/	
Seating Area	/	/	/	/	Considerably amount of new damp on interior walls to left side of premises entering from the back entrance. Extensive rotting of wooden floor.
Stairway to upper room	/	/	/	/	
Upper Room	/	/	/	/	
Rear Entrance	/	/	/	/	Paint flaking off walls
Side Door	/	/	/	/	
Observations/ Other Comments					General deterioration evident. Alarms sounded & checked 5 th & 7 th Feb - OK
Statutory annual Inspections:					Dragon Fire & Security Systems (fire extinguishers) 06/12/2022. Dragon Fire & Security Systems (Intruder & fire alarms) 21/08/2024.

Signed: *T Hughes*

Town Clerk Date: 11/02/25
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee